

23 JAN 1968

Bernard D.  
50C.4.01.1 Congressional  
Quarterly

# Congressional Quarterly Is Having Staff Upheaval

By Bernard D. Nossiter  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Congressional Quarterly, the research organ devoted to Government affairs, is undergoing a staff upheaval that began with the abrupt dismissal after Christmas of Thomas N. Schroth, the executive editor.

Six other staff members, including the political editor, Neal Peirce and the production manager, Edward L. Barton, have since resigned and other editorial employees have privately talked of leaving.

Nelson Poynter, the 65-year-old owner of CQ, as the organization is popularly known, said yesterday that there "probably will be" further resignations.

Poynter, a veteran newspaperman who also owns the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times and the Evening Independent, said that the expected departures would be "tolerable, manageable." Of CQ's 83 employees, 40 are engaged in editorial or research work in the library.

## Four Days Late

Some subscribers to the service, however, report that this week's publication arrived four days later than usual.

CQ was started by Poynter and his late wife, Henrietta, in 1945. It has become a valued tool of newspapers, unions, corporate lobbyists, Congressmen, libraries, academics and Federal agencies.

Its "Weekly Report" summarizes activity on Capitol Hill

and elsewhere in Government. Special supplements analyze the background of key legislative issues. An annual "Almanac" attempts to survey a full year's Congressional labor. Another service is its quick summary and analysis of every Congressman's key votes.

Under Schroth, who became executive editor in 1955, the service has expanded ten times. In the year ending last June 30, it grossed \$1.8 million.

Trouble at CQ began last September when owner Poynter stripped Schroth of his authority over the publications' business side and gave this task to Buel F. Weare who received the title of publisher. Friends of Schroth say he was not happy over this change but was living with it. Poynter, however, said that Schroth "could not accommodate himself" to running the editorial side exclusively.

On Dec. 28, Poynter came up from his Florida home, summoned Schroth to a meeting, told him he wanted the executive editor's resignation and handed him a press release announcing it.

In the view of some dissatisfied staffers, Poynter acted out of vanity, annoyed that CQ's success was identified with Schroth and not himself. Poynter dismisses that view.

Others at CQ think there is

a basic conflict over the publications' substance and Poynter gives some support to this. Unhappy CQ writers say that Poynter is dissatisfied with what they regard as CQ's aggressive, more imaginative reporting. They think the owner wants a dry log that simply records events.

## Drifting From Goal

Poynter says this is a misconception. However, he says that CQ was conceived "to reinforce the rhetoric of newspapers with facts" and that it had been drifting away from this goal.

As for Schroth, who is 48, he is planning to launch a new publication in the field of political research. His plans, he says, are not yet ripe enough for a more detailed announcement.